Vulgar programmes on internet

†2376. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain vulgar programmes/ programme sites are readily available in this age of internet revolution;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these programmes are casting adverse effect on young boys/girls; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to curb such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Information Technology has not conducted any study on the social impact of internet.

(c) Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) had taken steps to facilitate restrictions on such web-sites for youth/small children through introduction of "Kids Suite" during April, 1999. The Kids Internet Suite is provided free with VSNL's internet connection and it enables the parents/guardians permit access only to certain sites and block out objectionable sites. National Informatic Centre (NIC) has been providing INTERNET to Government Department/Bothes. The obscene sites can be blocked at the Internet Gateway level NIC on its part has installed appropriate software to block obscene sites to the maximum extent possible. However, it may not be technically feasible to completely block such sites because of their large proliferation internationally.

ESI Hospital at Tirupathi and Nizamabad

2377. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested to direct the ESI Corporation to hand over buildings for commissoning ESI Hospitals at Triupathi and Nizamabad in order to provide full fledged medical facilities; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the action taken to expedite the matter?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The building of the ESI hospitals at Tirupathi has already been taken over by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the hospital has since been inaugrated on 8.7.99. The construction work of the hospital building at Nizamabad has also been completed and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been requested to arrange its commissioning.

Expenditure Ratio of ESI

2378. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ESI Corporation will agree to share the actual expenditure on medical care in the State in 7:1 ratio without any ceiling as suggested by Government of Maharashtra;

(b) whether E.S.I. Corporation will delegate to the State Government powers for sanctions and purchase equipment/ apparatus/vehicles, etc. according to norms or replacement thereof as suggested by Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Under Section 58 of the ESI Act, 1948, the responsibility for providing medical care to the insured persons vests in concerned State Government/UT Administrations and expenditure incurred in this regard is required to be shared between the ESIC and State Governments in ratio of 7:1. However, the Corporation is meeting full cost of construction of ESI hospitals and dispensaries. The Corporation is meeting full cost of medical care for the first three years in the newly implemented areas. The Corporation is also running four occupational diseases centres at its own cost. There is huge expenditure on accounts of cash payment in respect of sickness, maternity, disablement and death of insured persons and the same is being met exclusively by the ESI Corporation. The Corporation has already authorised the State Governments to purchase equipments costing below Rs. 25,00(K- However, expenditure on equipments